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Bangalore Mirror ON SATURDAY

TEMP Max 27 | Min 13 | Humidity 29% Partly sunny Sensex 85,267 | Nifty 26,046 | Gold 1,34,867 | Silver 2,00,144 | Dollar 90.57 | Euro 106.25 | GBP 121.18

Researchers study accessibility to public parks and find that 29% of wards lack walkable access to neighbourhood parks; low-income areas in the west and southern periphery face most severe dearth of green spaces

LED DOWN THE GARDEN PATH

Citizens say some existing parks are in sad shape due to poor maintenance

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PARK PROBLEM PART 1

An analytical study on Bengaluru's green infrastructure has laid bare a troubling reality: India's famed 'Garden City' is rapidly losing both its green identity and the equity of access to its remaining urban parks. Conducted by researchers Nilanjan Bhor and Dhananjayan Mayavel from the Indian Institute for Human Settlements, the study maps the city's public parks and examines how uneven access intersects with socio-economic disparities.

The findings illustrate not just an environmental challenge, but a growing public-health concern.

Bengaluru once drew pride from its lush canopy, with vegetation covering more than two-thirds of its geographical area in the early 1970s. Industrial expansion, information-technology–driven growth, and surging population numbers have since transformed that landscape. By 2012, the city's green cover had fallen to just over 23 percent.

With today's population exceeding 13 million, the available green area is now a mere 3.3 square metre per person—far below the global recommendation of 9 square metre. This decline has coincided

CONTINUED ON PAGE 12 »

KAUSHIK JN

Larger 'sub-city' parks such as Cubbon Park service extensive areas

SUGAR RUSH

Drop in diagnosed and treated diabetes cases, but Karnataka still carries significant disease load

PAGE 8

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THINGS TO DO

01 Groovy beats

Legendary singer Vijay Prakash will be performing live in an evening where music transcends time and emotion, as he returns to the spotlight with a concert that promises to be nothing short of extraordinary.
Where: Phoenix Marketcity, Whitefield;
When: December 13, 6 pm

02 Style and structure

The Indian Institute of Interior Designers (IIID), Bengaluru Chapter, is set to host the 5th edition of Designuru 5.0, a four-day citywide festival celebrating the best of architecture, interior design, art, craft, technology, and culture.
Where: Karnataka Chitrakala Parishath, Seshadripuram;
When: Until December 14

03 Shopper's paradise

Rajasthan Grameen Mela, organised by artisans from across the country, is hosting an exhibition and sale featuring vast collections of cotton and silk handlooms and handicrafts, dress materials, and many more traditional creations.
Where: Banashankari Mahila Samaja;
When: Until December 14

04 Community celebration

Echoes of Earth, one of the most inclusive and community-centric festivals of the year, returns to Bengaluru. This year's edition features a dedicated kids' zone with interactive workshops, creative activities, and exhibitions designed especially for young explorers.
Where: Embassy International Riding School, Papanahalli;
When: December 13 and 14

05 Symphony of fusion

Thaikkudam Bridge will be performing live, bringing their signature fusion of rock, folk, classical, indie, and world music in a high energy concert.
Where: Forum South, Konanakunte;
When: December 13, 7 pm

HC notified about CCB takeover of Ola probe

Ola employee's suicide investigation has now come under Bengaluru's Central Crime Branch, informs government advocate in submission to court

Bangalore Mirror Bureau
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The Karnataka High Court has been informed that the probe into the abetment to suicide case involving Ola Electric Technologies Private Limited CEO Bhavish Aggarwal and others has been transferred to the Central Crime Branch (CCB), Bengaluru.

In an order dated December 5, Justice Mohammad Nawaz recorded the submission of the government advocate, who stated that the CCB has now taken over the investigation. The court had earlier asked the police to update it on the progress of the case and to clarify whether the Forensic Science Laboratory (FSL) report on the alleged death note had been procured. The State informed the bench that the FSL report is still pending.

Reiterating its earlier directions, the court observed, "The directions issued by this court to the concerned police not to harass the petitioners shall continue and at the same time, petitioners shall co-operate with the investigation of the case."

The matter has been posted for further hearing on January 21, 2026.

The FIR in question was lodged on October 6 at the Subramanyapura Police Station on the basis of a complaint filed by Ashwin Kannan, brother of the deceased K Aravind, who allegedly died by suicide after consuming poison.

Court emphasises its earlier direction, asking police not to harass petitioners who must co-operate with investigation of case

Repeated preventive detention errors flagged

The Karnataka High Court has expressed sharp concern over state government officers repeatedly issuing defective preventive detention orders under the Goonda Act, despite clear guidelines laid down by the court to avoid such recurring mistakes. The lapses, the court noted, have continued to result in detenus being released on technical grounds.

A division bench comprising Justice R Devdas and Justice B Puralidhara Pai said that unfortunately nothing seems to have changed since the court issued a detailed set of 13 guidelines in 2019. Those directions were circulated to senior officials across departments — including the Home, Law and Revenue departments — and to all Police Commissioners, Deputy Commissioners and Superintendents of Police. Yet, the bench observed, the preventive detention machinery continues to repeat the mistakes highlighted years ago. The strong observations came while setting aside a preventive detention order issued on June 3, 2025, by the Commissioner of Police, Hubballi–Dharwad, against Dawood Nadaf of Hubballi.

The petition was filed by Nadaf's wife, Prathiba Talapati, challenging the legality of the detention.

The bench criticised officials for continuing to issue "cyclostyled" detention orders and furnishing illegible documents to detenus, often without translations.

In the present case, the court pointed out that 185 pages out of the 800-page document bundle served on Nadaf were illegible, rendering the detention legally unsustainable. The bench therefore set aside the order, reiterating that strict compliance with procedural safeguards is essential in preventive detention cases.

Man dies while rescuing exotic bird

A 35-year-old man died of electrocution while attempting to rescue a special-breed parrot perched on a high-tension pole on Friday morning, in an incident reported from Veerabhadra Layout under Girinagar Police Station limits.

The deceased, Arun Kumar, was trying to rescue his relative's exotic Macaw, valued at around Rs 2 lakh, when he accidentally touched a live 66,000 kV power line. Residents rushed him to a nearby hospital, where doctors declared him brought dead. **–BMB**

Bizman injured in shooting incident

A 57-year-old businessman was injured after being shot at with an air gun while taking a walk inside Krishna Rao Park on Dewan Madhava Rao Road in Basavanagudi on Wednesday night. The incident occurred between 8 pm and 8.30 pm within Basavanagudi Police Station limits.

The victim, identified as Rajagopal D, owns a bar and restaurant in the area. He is currently undergoing treatment at a private hospital in Jayanagar. Police said Rajagopal had past disputes related to property. Further investigation is underway. **–BMB**

Mobiles, SIM cards seized in Central Jail raid

A surprise inspection carried out at the Bangalore Central Jail on Thursday night led to the seizure of six mobile phones and six SIM cards illegally in possession of inmates, prompting authorities to register a criminal case and initiate action against those involved.

Officials suspect that the items were smuggled into the prison with the assistance of individuals both inside and outside the facility. The Parappana Agrahara police registered a case in connection with the incident and have begun further investigation. **–BMB**

Cricket's comeback to Chinnaswamy Stadium welcomed

Cricket fans are delighted with the government's decision to allow matches again at Chinnaswamy Stadium, especially after RCB's IPL victory this year. Supporters say they do not want to miss watching their favourites live next season and hope the stadium will host regular international Tests, ODIs and T20s along with the IPL. The Cabinet, chaired by Chief Minister Siddaramaiah on Thursday had approved the resumption of matches that had been restricted after the crowd crush incident. Acting on the recommendations of Justice Michael D Cunha's report, the Cabinet decided to permit future games with specific conditions, and the Chief Minister directed Home Minister Dr G Parameshwara to issue the required guidelines. **–BMB**

K'taka to have colder days

Bengaluru woke up to a sharp nip in the air as clear skies and early mist set the tone for a colder-than-usual start. The India Meteorological Department said the city will see mainly clear conditions, with fog or mist likely in some pockets during the early hours. The maximum temperature is expected to be around 27°C and the minimum about 14°C.

The department noted that the upper air cyclonic circulation over the southwest Bay of Bengal has weakened, allowing easterly winds to prevail across the state. This shift is likely to bring a cooler spell.

A cold wave warning has been issued for several districts. North Interior Karnataka may face cold wave conditions over the next three days, with severe cold wave conditions expected in isolated pockets of Bagalkote, Belagavi, Bidar, Dharwad, Gadag, Kalaburagi, Vijayapura, Raichur and Yadgir over the next two days. Districts in South Interior Karnataka, including Shivamogga, Hassan, Ballari, Kolar and Vijayanagara, are also likely to experience colder conditions. "Temperatures are expected to dip further in some districts, and early morning fog is likely in and around Bengaluru," said Puviarasan N, Scientist F and Head of the Meteorological Centre, Bengaluru. **–BMB**

Despite 50% rebate, fines remain unpaid

The government offered a 50 per cent rebate on long pending fines for Motor Vehicles Act violations, but vehicle owners have shown little interest in clearing dues. Friday was the last day for payment and only 373 cases, about 0.08 per cent of the total, were settled. The rebate for Transport Department cases was announced for the first time after earlier concessions covered only Police Department cases. The Transport Department had sought a rebate for cases recorded before 2018 to 19, with around 4.33 lakh cases carrying dues of nearly Rs 52 crore from 1991 to 2020. Since the window opened on November 21, fines paid amounted to Rs 12.07 lakh, leaving dues of about Rs 51.89 crore unpaid.

Officials said expectations of strong public response have not materialised. Many vehicles have changed hands over the years, and current users do not wish to pay old fines. Some vehicles have been scrapped, but the cases against them remain active. **–BMB**

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Land mafia faces government crackdown

The Karnataka Revenue Minister, Krishna Byre Gowda, told the Legislative Council on Friday that criminal proceedings and departmental action would be initiated against officials and land mafias involved in the illegal grant of 'Bagair Hukum' land.

Replying to a question raised by MLC Ramesh Babu during Zero Hour, the minister said the department had uncovered serious irregularities in Chikkanayakanahalli taluk, where fake cultivation certificates were allegedly issued in farmers' names to facilitate encroachment.

Gowda said, "We cannot tolerate the practice of illegally granting government land to land grabbers. Around 98 people in Chikkanayakanahalli taluk have been issued cultivation certificates in the names of farmers. An FIR has already been filed against the land grabbers who applied for land accounts using these fake certificates."

Karnataka Revenue Minister cracks down on land mafias as fake cultivation certificates are uncovered in Chikkanayakanahalli taluk

He said an investigation team was constituted on November 13, and sent to Chikkanayakanahalli soon after the matter came to the government's notice.

"The investigation is underway. It is not possible to tamper with files without the support of record-room officials. Hence, FIRs have been filed against all officials who were in charge of the record room in Chikkanayakanahalli taluk from 2018 onwards," the minister informed the House. He added that the team is also verifying signatures on the fake certificates to ascertain which ones are genuine and which are forged.

Officials have requested one more week to submit the report, he said, adding that the government is treating the matter seriously and will initiate criminal cases and disciplinary action against all officials found involved once the report is received. **–PTI**

Valve chamber cover cracks before anyone says 'quality'

Citizens condemn BWSSB for inferior construction at Shirke Circle; concrete panels fail, raising concerns about contractor oversight

Freshly laid BWSSB concrete slabs at Shirke Circle, Kengeri, lie shattered just three days after installation; (Inset) Bus tyre caught in shattered slabs shows poor workmanship

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TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

Fresh coverings fractured when a vehicle rolled across the structure in Kengeri, prompting officials to demand immediate renewal and question workmanship standards following widespread community criticism of the incident today

The broken concrete slabs covering the Bengaluru Water Supply and Sewerage Board (BWSSB) valve chamber at Shirke Circle, Kengeri, have exposed the poor quality of work by the contractor. Installed just three days ago, the slabs cracked when a private factory bus drove over them, and now must be replaced.

Residents and activists are up in arms against the BWSSB authorities for hiring a contractor who failed to ensure quality in the construction of the valve chamber. They said the workers did not bother to use sufficient quantities of cement while casting the slabs. "The concrete slabs were broken when a factory bus passed over the valve chamber at Shirke Circle. I am of the opinion that the contractor failed to ensure quality in the work. I have already complained to the BWSSB Executive Engineer about the poor quality of work and the broken slabs," said Shashidhar Aradhya, a resident.

Demanding that the BWSSB authorities ensure quality in the construction of the valve chamber, resident Shyam Prakash said he wants BWSSB engineers to visit the spot and supervise the work. "No one is bothered about ensuring quality. I want the BWSSB engineer to direct the contractor to replace the broken slabs with new ones without delay. The factory bus was empty when the mishap occurred," said Shyam Prakash.

Meanwhile, BWSSB Executive Engineer Chandrasekhar said he had instructed the contractor to replace the broken slabs with better-quality ones to avoid future mishaps. "The contractor failed to cover the valve chamber with slabs that can withstand heavy vehicles. The slabs used were meant for light vehicles. I will take measures to ensure the valve chamber is covered with new slabs without any delay," he said.

Private firms eyed for road upkeep

The Greater Bengaluru Authority is considering handing over the upkeep of prominent city roads, including MG Road and Brigade Road, to private firms. Until now, road development and maintenance within the authority's limits have been handled by the municipal bodies, but the administration is exploring a shift to private management for these key stretches. The idea is to fund the maintenance through the municipality or the authority, and initial discussions have already been held with major companies.

A senior GBA official said that while the municipal bodies currently manage the roads, a few private organisations have taken up maintenance on their own, mainly handling cleaning and park upkeep without receiving funds. Some have performed well, while others have not, and monitoring by civic officials has been lacking. This has prompted the move to formally assign the maintenance of select roads to private entities. **–BMB**

₹307cr plan to transform ORR

The Cabinet has approved a ₹307-crore project to redesign and upgrade the Outer Ring Road from Silk Board Junction to KR Puram Metro Station to global standards. It has also agreed to obtain space from the Software Technology Parks of India to shift the operations of the State Data Centre, which will help streamline digital services and infrastructure. Shanta Kumar, a regular motorist, welcomed the move and said the stretch has long needed smoother traffic flow and better road quality. He added that faster commutes will make a significant difference to daily travellers who spend hours on this route. **–BMB**

e-buses broke down 175 times more than diesel ones

BMTC has reported more than 14,000 breakdowns from its 1,690 electric buses, while its 5,361 diesel buses have recorded only 80 breakdowns. This means the electric fleet is facing failures at a rate roughly 175 times higher than diesel buses. Transport Minister Ramalinga Reddy told the Legislative Council that repeated stalling and batteries running out before completing routes have disrupted daily schedules, unlike the diesel fleet, which has posed no major issues. He said electric buses are operated on a contract basis and that the drivers are employed by private service providers, leading to several accidents due to careless driving. The minister said he has already raised these concerns with Union Minister HD Kumaraswamy, who has sought detailed explanations from officials. **–BMB**

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Lane woes

Whitefield

Kannamangala Main Road, Whitefield, still lacks lane markings six months after resurfacing and is awaiting urgent action.

Footpath blocked

Jayanagar

Footpaths in Jayanagar and JP Nagar, including those in front of MLA Ram Murthy's office, are blocked by flex boards, and the park remains poorly maintained.

Pedestrian hassle

JC Nagar

Pedestrian movement is obstructed on Church Road, JC Nagar, opposite I Vision Optical.

One denim jacket, endless outfit adventures

Looking for that edge? Denim jacket's got your back

If your denim jacket has been sitting on the sidelines, it's time to bring it into the spotlight. This style chameleon pairs just as effortlessly with a six-yard stunner as it does with slinky dresses and off-duty staples. Whether you're chasing contrast or layering like a pro, these outfit ideas prove your denim jacket deserves way more airtime than just with jeans.

1 Denim jacket x saree

Add a touch of rebellion to tradition. Throw a cropped denim jacket over your saree, be it chiffon, cotton, or silk for an effortless fusion look that's both edgy and elegant. This is the ultimate mix of timeless and cool. Add boots or sneakers, and it's a whole vibe.

2 Denim jacket x summer dress

That easy breezy sundress just found its forever plus-one. A light-wash denim jacket brings shape without sacrificing the sundress's laid-back, summertime spirit. Sling it in style over your shoulders for brunch, errands, or whatever else the day brings.

3 Denim jacket x skirt & tee

Sometimes all you need is the trinity: a cute tee, a cute mini or midi skirt, and that well-worn denim layer. It gives effortless, it gives "model off duty", and we're here for it.

4 Denim jacket x maxi dress

Go for the drape of a maxi, floral, tiered or basic, paired with a fitted denim jacket. Shape, coverage, and a little bit of structure to balance all that flow. It is a super simple way to dress down the drama.

5 Denim jacket x black bodycon

Transform your LBD from uninspired to power move. A denim jacket adds the right amount of "I didn't care" vibe, while still conveying the message as you clearly understood the assignment. **—Femina**

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Kanakapura Road emerges as city's next affordable real estate hotspot

Bengaluru's real estate landscape has long been dominated by areas like Whitefield, Sarjapur Road, and Hebbal. Yet, one corridor is quietly emerging as the city's next hotspot for property buyers and investors i.e.; Kanakapura Road. Known for its seamless blend of urban connectivity and serene surroundings, this stretch has quickly become one of the most sought-after residential destinations in Bangalore.

"One of the most compelling reasons to consider Kanakapura Road is its connectivity. The road links South Bengaluru to the central business districts, providing easy access to major IT hubs, commercial centres and social infrastructure.

With the ongoing expansion of the NICE Road and upcoming metro projects, commuting to key parts of the city is set to become faster and more convenient, further enhancing the area's appeal,"

said Shanukhappa V, a property buyer.

Affordability is another major factor driving interest in Kanakapura Road. "Compared to Whitefield or Koramangala, property prices here are significantly lower, offering buyers more space for the same investment. For first-time homeowners or investors looking for high returns, Kanakapura Road presents a strong opportunity. The area offers a wide range of residential options, from luxury apartments to spacious villas, catering to diverse budgets and lifestyle preferences," said Swathi Gowda, a property developer.

Beyond convenience and pricing, the corridor also stands out for its proximity to nature. "Kanakapura Road is dotted with lush greenery, parks and lakes, giving residents a much-needed escape from the city's hustle. Localities such as HSR Layout, JP Nagar and Jayanagar are just a short drive away, offering a balance between urban living and a peaceful environment. For families, this makes Kanakapura Road an ideal location that combines city perks with a tranquil lifestyle," said Atreya Bharadwaj, a college student.

"Compared to Whitefield or Koramangala, property prices here are significantly lower, offering buyers more space for the same investment

Social infrastructure along the stretch is also witnessing steady growth. Reputed schools, colleges, hospitals and shopping complexes have come up in recent years, ensuring residents have access to quality amenities close to home. The presence of emerging commercial hubs further adds to the corridor's appeal for working professionals seeking shorter commutes without compromising on comfort.

"From an investment perspective, Kanakapura Road holds strong long-term potential. With Bengaluru's urban expansion gradually moving southwards, property values here are expected to appreciate steadily over the next decade. Early investors stand to benefit from competitive pricing and growing demand," added Gowda.

She also noted that the area appeals to buyers seeking a modern lifestyle rooted in culture and tradition. "With temples, cultural centres and community spaces nearby, Kanakapura Road offers a wholesome environment for families while embracing contemporary living.

It brings together connectivity, affordability, greenery, modern amenities and investment potential, making it one of Bengaluru's most promising real estate destinations," she said.

—Prakash VL

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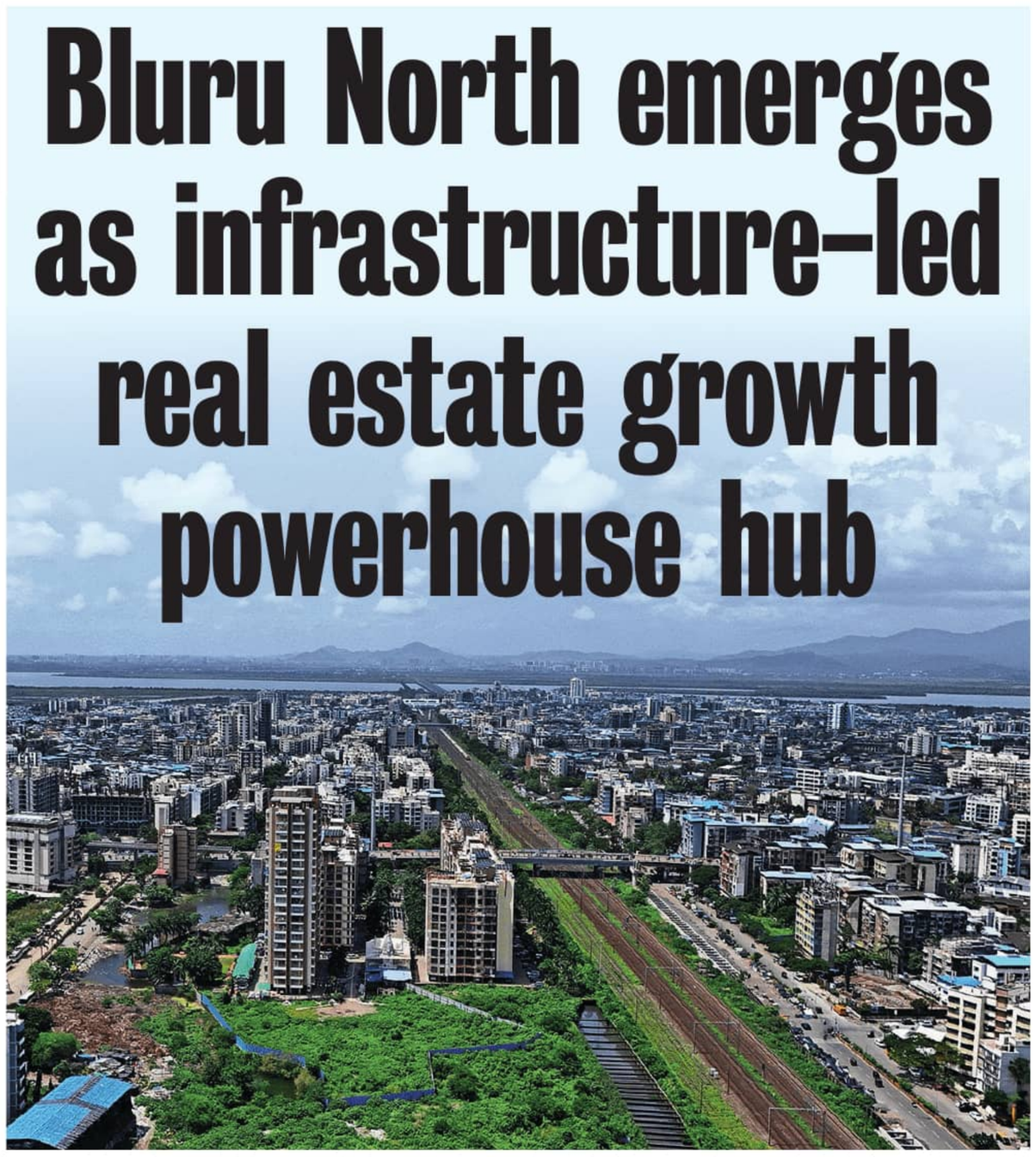
Bluru North emerges as infrastructure-led real estate growth powerhouse hub



Bengaluru's northern corridor is rapidly transforming, emerging as one of the city's most promising hubs for real estate and investment. Traditionally overshadowed by South and East Bengaluru, areas like Hebbal, Yelahanka, Hennur, and Devanahalli are now witnessing unprecedented growth, fuelled by a slew of large-scale infrastructure projects and urban development initiatives. For homebuyers and investors alike, the north promises both convenience and long-term value.

One of the most visible drivers of this transformation is improved connectivity. "The expansion of the Outer Ring Road, along with the completion of key flyovers and underpasses, has drastically reduced commute times to major IT hubs like Manyata Tech Park and Hebbal. The upcoming Namma Metro extensions to the northern corridor, including the Yelahanka and Nagawara lines, will further enhance accessibility, making the region a practical choice for working professionals seeking homes with shorter commutes," said Dinesh Kamath, an urban planner.

Adding to this momentum is the proximity to Kempegowda International Airport in Devanahalli. With new expressways and dedicated airport roads under development, areas surrounding the airport are witnessing a surge in luxury and mid-segment residential projects. Investors are particularly optimistic, as property prices in these locations remain competitive compared to traditional southern hubs, while the potential for appreciation is significant.

"The government and private players are jointly pushing a series of big-ticket infrastructure projects in the north. The upcoming Peripheral Ring Road (PRR) is expected to ease traffic congestion and provide seamless connectivity across the city's outskirts. Additionally, the proposed ITIR (Information Technology Investment Region) near Devanahalli will bring in global tech parks, commercial hubs, and residential townships, establishing Bengaluru North as a major economic and employment centre," said Mythili Reddy, a property developer.

> **"Areas like Yelahanka, Devanahalli, and parts of Hennur still retain natural landscapes, lakes, and open spaces, offering residents a balanced lifestyle amid urban expansion**

Commercial development is also gaining momentum. Hebbal and Hennur are attracting new office spaces, shopping centres, and hospitality projects, transforming these areas into self-sufficient urban clusters. The emergence of malls, fine-dining options, and entertainment hubs adds to the lifestyle appeal, making the north not just a residential destination but a holistic living experience.

Real estate trends reflect this rapid development. Builders are launching high-end apartments, villa communities, and mixed-use townships, catering to both end-users and investors. With competitive pricing and modern amenities, these projects are drawing interest from Bengaluru's growing affluent population as well as NRI buyers seeking high-value properties in emerging locations.

Furthermore, Bengaluru North benefits from its green spaces and planned layouts. "Areas like Yelahanka, Devanahalli, and parts of Hennur still retain natural landscapes, lakes, and open spaces, offering residents a balanced lifestyle amid urban expansion. The combination of infrastructure, connectivity, and environment positions the northern corridor as a unique destination for modern urban living," Reddy added.

–Prakash VL

GCC boom tightens India's office market, driving occupancy and rentals

Bengaluru's Grade-A office market is showing remarkable resilience, with demand for premium office space consistently outstripping new supply, pushing vacancy rates to historic lows. According to the latest findings from ICRA, the trend is being driven largely by Global Capability Centres (GCCs), which are fuelling a significant portion of leasing activity across India's top six office markets.

In FY2025, Bengaluru recorded net absorption of 18.4 million sq ft of Grade-A office space against fresh supply of 16.3 million sq ft. This momentum has continued into FY2026, with 10.1 million sq ft absorbed in the first half of the year compared with 8.4 million sq ft of new supply. As a result, overall occupancy rose to 90.8% by September 2025, marking a notable 230 basis-point increase from March 2024.

ICRA projects that even with an expected 16–17 million sq ft of new supply over FY2026–FY2027, occupancy levels are likely to climb further, reaching 91–91.5% by March 2026 and 92–92.5% by March 2027.

GCCs remain the key growth driver and are expected to account for around 40% of incremental office demand, leasing 50–55 million sq ft across India's six leading cities between April 2025 and March 2027.

Bengaluru, which contributes 26% of the top six cities' Grade-A office supply, is expected to be the primary beneficiary. Demand is particularly strong in core IT and ITES micro-markets such as Outer Ring Road (SE), Whitefield and Nagavara, which together account for nearly 37% of the city's total supply. Tightening vacancies are driving steady rental growth, with prime micro-markets recording a compound annual growth rate of 3–4% over the past five years. ICRaA expects similar growth in FY2026, reinforcing Bengaluru's position as India's leading premium office hub, supported by sustained corporate expansion, strong infrastructure connectivity and continued investor confidence in the city's commercial real estate fundamentals. **BMB**

Karnataka achieves notable diabetes reduction this year

Cases fell from 1.16 million to 0.81 million in a year, contrasting rises in Gujarat and Maharashtra

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Karnataka reports 30% drop in diabetes cases, yet remains top five nationally, reflecting successful interventions amid rising nationwide burden

Karnataka has seen a slight decrease in diagnosed diabetes cases in the latest reporting period, according to data presented in Parliament. In FY 2024–25, the state recorded 1,162,393 diagnosed cases, which fell to 808,388 in FY 2025–26, marking a 30.5% decline. Similarly, the number of people undergoing treatment decreased from 1,162,393 to 808,388 over the same period. Despite the reduction, Karnataka remains among the top five states in India for total diabetes burden, reflecting the high prevalence of the disease in the region.

By comparison, Maharashtra saw a 6.6% rise in diagnosed cases, increasing from 1,206,733 in FY 2024–25 to 1,287,418 in FY 2025–26, while Gujarat's cases surged by 42%, from 1,560,702 to 2,218,898. Southern neighbours such as Tamil Nadu and Kerala recorded more modest trends, with Kerala showing a decline from 146,000 undergoing treatment to 97,000. Telangana also experienced an increase, from 1,117,051 diagnosed cases to 848,394, reflecting a mixed regional trend.

At the national level, India saw a marginal increase in diagnosed cases, from 8,987,679 in FY 2024–25 to 9,070,759 in FY 2025–26, highlighting that while Karnataka's reduction is notable, the overall burden across the country continues to rise. Experts suggest that Karnataka's decline may be linked to intensified screening, improved awareness programmes, and better management protocols at the state level.

"While the drop in diagnosed and treated cases is encouraging, the state still carries a significant diabetes load, necessitating continued preventive measures and lifestyle interventions," said Dr Meera R, public health analyst. Karnataka's position reflects a balanced approach, where effective state programmes may have begun curbing new cases even as neighbouring states struggle with rising numbers. She said, "In sum, Karnataka's diabetes trajectory shows progress amid a growing national challenge, maintaining its status as a key state in India's public health landscape while demonstrating the impact of targeted interventions on non-communicable diseases."

World-class aquarium coming to BBP

Rainwater-powered, zero-discharge facility to showcase endangered aquatic life, spread awareness, and operate on a public-private revenue-sharing model

Garima Prasher
garima.prasher@timesofindia.com
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If things materialise as planned, the Bannerghatta Biological Park (BBP) will soon host a world-class aquarium with diverse marine and freshwater life, offering tourists yet another reason to visit the park.

"The aquarium has been in discussion for a long time. BBP has conducted a feasibility analysis and, based on the report, the project, a Public–Private Partnership venture, has received approval from the Infrastructure Development Department. BBP has also appointed a transaction adviser to prepare a detailed project report," said AV Surya Sen, Executive Director, BBP.

The global aquarium will be a zero-effluent establishment and will have an advanced onsite water management system to minimise freshwater use. Water requirements will be met completely through the existing rainwater-harvesting mechanism.

PIC FOR REPRESENTATION PURPOSE ONLY

"The aquarium is based on a zero-discharge methodology. We will not use freshwater, including Cauvery water and groundwater. In an aquarium set-up, water is always topped up and never completely drained. Thus, the water requirement is not as high as it might sound," added Sen.

The daily water requirement of the aquarium is expected to be around 20,000 litres, including requirements such as cleaning and washroom usage.

A tender for the design and development of the Rs 200 crore project will be floated shortly, with the park to be built on a revenue-sharing model. BBP is only providing the land and will share the revenue from the venture for the next 30 years.

The proposed structure will be constructed on three acres of land, an old abandoned quarry inside the campus. According to the authorities, no trees will be harmed during the construction.

The idea behind the project is to spread awareness about the importance of wetlands and aquatic life and the role they play in maintaining the overall balance of our ecosystem. BBP officials say the park currently has little information on the wetland ecosystem and aquatic fauna. The aquarium is being built to fill this gap.

"We will showcase local aquatic fauna, including endangered species such as Mahseer, which are endemic to the Cauvery River and are also critically endangered. We have also caught a local fish being smuggled from Assam. Critically endangered aquatic life will also be on display, along with detailed information to educate visitors," added Sen.

The establishment will also explore research activities to ensure better management of critically endangered aquatic life. The project is now pending the state cabinet's approval. Once approved, the tender for the project will be floated immediately.

IN BRIEF

No plan to create 2 commissionerates

Home Minister Dr G Parameshwara has clarified that the Karnataka government has no proposal to divide the Bengaluru police unit into two commissionerates or to create an additional police commissioner post. He said the idea is not currently before the government, though it may be considered in the future if necessary. He added that teams will be sent to Hyderabad, Delhi and Mumbai, where police commissionerates have been split, to study improvements in crime control, traffic management and cybercrime handling.

He stated that Bengaluru's population is increasing by lakhs each year and nearly 45 per cent of software companies are located in the city, contributing to rising cases of robbery and traffic congestion. Police cite poor infrastructure, not force, as the main issue. The current commissionerate with multiple DCPs and ACPs suffices for now, though MLC Dr Govindaraju argued two are needed given the population growth since 1963. **BMB**

MPs, MLAs made members of GBA

All Lok Sabha MPs, Rajya Sabha MPs, MLAs and MLCs representing constituencies fully or partly within the Greater Bengaluru Authority limits, along with nominated MPs and MLCs listed on the city's electoral rolls, have been included as members of the authority. The government introduced a second round of amendments to the Greater Bengaluru Governance Bill, which was tabled in the Assembly.

The amendment allows senior Urban Development and Finance officials as ex officio members and permits the Additional Secretary of Urban Development to join the executive committee. Until elections in new areas, one local resident per 20,000 people will be a non-voting member. Elections must occur within six months, with winners serving the remaining council term. **BMB**

CM spent Rs 47.14cr on air travel

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah has spent ₹47.15 crore on helicopter and special aircraft travel over two and a half years, undertaking a total of 180 trips, including 25 between Bengaluru and Mysuru. The details were provided in response to a question from Opposition Chief Whip N Ravi Kumar in the Legislative Council recently. His air travel began on August 18, 2023, shortly after he assumed office following the Assembly elections. His first private special aircraft cost over 1 crore for one day. Total expense for three-day Bengaluru–Mumbai, Bengaluru–Delhi, and Delhi–Mumbai trip was 79 lakh. A short helicopter trip from HAL Airport to Gauribidanur alone cost ₹7.78 lakh. The information notes that governors, chief ministers and Supreme Court judges can use aircraft and helicopters for official travel. **BMB**

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BENGALURU SPEAKS

and gets heard on this page

STORY BEHIND THE PHOTO

SACRED TREE SENTINELS

Our reader shares a charming glimpse of a pair of Spotted Owlets nestled within a hollowed tree near the historic Bhoganandishwara Temple, at the foothills of Nandi Hills. Perched high above the ground, the owlets appear calm and secure, having wisely chosen an elevated refuge—offering a gentle reminder of how wildlife quietly adapts and thrives alongside places of heritage and worship.

The picture was clicked by BM reader **Sridhar Comaravalli**, Cartoonist

If you have a picture and a story to share, send us the picture with your name and number at **mybangaloremirror@timesofindia.com**

BDA slides concrete boxes beneath live tracks

Bangalore Mirror Bureau
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TWEETS @BangaloreMirror

Engineers push massive concrete box segments beneath live railway tracks using hydraulic jacks, allowing trains to run on temporary girders

The Bangalore Development Authority (BDA) is constructing an 8-lane road that passes under the Bengaluru-Mysore railway line at Challaghatta. The project is being carried out in coordination with the Railways to ensure that train operations continue safely during construction.

BDA Commissioner P Manivannan explained the procedure and timeline involved in completing the work, stating that the construction has been carefully planned to avoid disruption to rail traffic. He said the process begins by cutting a section of the railway track at the point where the road will pass underneath. The width removed corresponds to four lanes of the proposed road. The railway track is then lifted using cranes, and the ballast and soil beneath are cleared.

To ensure that train services continue, a temporary railway track mounted on a girder is placed over the construction site. Trains are allowed to operate on this temporary arrangement at a reduced speed of 20 kmph. Once the temporary track is in position, four massive concrete boxes, each weighing over 1,000 tonnes, are pushed beneath the railway line using hydraulic jacks. These boxes form a hollow passage for the road while simultaneously supporting the track above.

According to Manivannan, the boxes are pushed at a rate of approximately one metre per day, and completing the first set of four lanes takes about 30 days. After this phase, the temporary railway track is removed, the original tracks are restored, and the road is laid inside the concrete boxes. The same process is then repeated for the remaining four lanes, which is expected to take another 30 days.

The commissioner noted in a social media post that the work requires large cranes and girders and is carried out only at night, between 11 pm and 4 am, to minimise inconvenience to train operations. He stressed that close coordination between railway engineers and BDA road engineers is critical to ensure safety and precision at every stage.

He added that the design ensures the railway line can safely carry all trains, including high-speed services, once the project is completed. Deputy Chief Minister D K Shivakumar has directed that the Mysore Road stretch be opened to the public within three months, provided the construction schedule is maintained.BDA showcases seamless undertrack executon.

DID YOU KNOW?

Two new studies published within weeks have decisively resolved a long-running paleontological debate, confirming that Nanotyrannus was not a juvenile Tyrannosaurus rex, but a distinct species that lived alongside it. The latest research, published in science, examined a throat bone called the hyoid from the original Nanotyrannus skull discovered in Montana in 1942. Growth rings preserved in the hyoid—similar to those in trees—revealed the animal was approximately 15–18 years old, indicating it was fully grown or nearly so. This directly contradicts claims that the fossil belonged to an immature Tyrannosaurus rex.
An earlier study published on October 30 reached the same conclusion using growth records from other bones and identifying clear anatomical differences. **-Reuters**

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Income Tax officials issue fact-check against fake e-mails offering to download e-PAN card

The Claim: Emails claiming to be from the Income Tax Department ask recipients to download their e-PAN card through links or attachments, promising step-by-step guidance, and seek personal, banking, or financial details, making them appear official and urgent to unsuspecting taxpayers.

Fact: The Income Tax Department has clarified such emails are fake. It never asks for personal, banking, PINs, or passwords via email, links, calls, or SMS. Citizens should avoid clicking links or attachments and report phishing emails to official CERT-In and Income Tax addresses.

The Income Tax Department has issued a fact-check alerting citizens against fake emails asking recipients to download e-PAN cards, an official said on Sunday.

The fact-check, issued with the help of the Press Information Bureau (PIB), warned: "Beware of fake emails asking you to download e-PAN cards." The PIB also circulated a screenshot of a phishing email offering a "step-by-step guide" to download an e-PAN card online.

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Clarifying its position, the Income Tax Department said it does not seek detailed personal information through email. "Do not respond to any emails, links, calls, or SMSes asking you to share financial or sensitive information," the department said.

It further clarified that it does not send emails requesting PIN numbers, passwords, or similar access information related to credit cards, banks, or other financial accounts.

In an advisory, the department said that if individuals receive an email claiming to be authorised by the Income Tax Department or directing them to an Income Tax website, they should neither reply nor open any attachments. "Attachments may contain malicious code that can infect your computer," it warned.

The advisory also cautioned people against clicking on links in suspicious emails or phishing websites and urged them not to enter confidential information such as bank account or credit card details. Citizens were advised not to copy and paste links from such messages into their browsers, as phishers can make links appear genuine while redirecting users to fraudulent websites.

The department further advised taxpayers to use updated anti-virus software, anti-spyware tools, and firewalls. "Some phishing emails contain software that can harm your computer or track online activity without your knowledge. Updated security software can help protect against inadvertently accepting such unwanted files," it said.

Encouraging citizens to report phishing attempts, the department said emails not pertaining to the Income Tax Department should be forwarded to incident@cert-in.org.in. If an email or website is suspected of impersonating the Income Tax Department, users should forward the email or website URL to webmanager@incometax.gov.in, with a copy to incident@cert-in.org.in. **-IANS**

HEALTH TIP: To ease any digestive discomfort, boil cumin with cinnamon and sip on this concoction for relief

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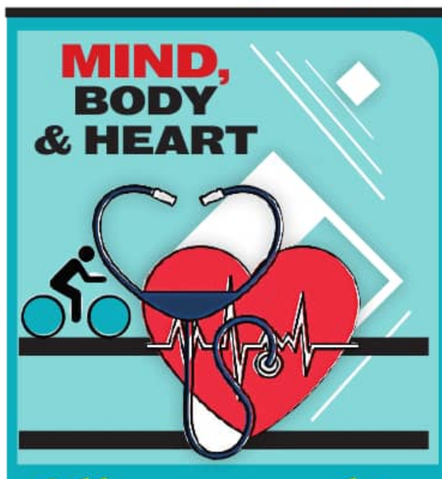


All you need to know about...

Better sleep

Switching your mind off after a long day packed with screens, deadlines, and conversations can often feel impossible. Yet better sleep rarely requires dramatic lifestyle changes. Instead, it is shaped by small, consistent nightly rituals that gently guide your body and mind away from the day's chaos and toward rest. These simple habits create separation, restore calm, and help you drift into deeper, more restorative sleep.

Unplug Mindfully
Turn off all screens at least an hour before bed to prevent blue light from suppressing melatonin. Replace scrolling with quiet routines such as stretching, reading, or journaling, allowing your mind to shift naturally from alertness to rest.

Gratitude Reflection
End your day by listing three moments that brought joy. This shift from stress to appreciation reduces anxiety, curbs overthinking, and signals emotional closure, making it easier to unwind.

Sleep Sanctuary
Create a peaceful bedroom environment. Keep it cool, dark, and clutter-free, use soft lighting, and choose comfortable bedding that encourages relaxation.

Clock Consistency
Maintain a fixed sleep-wake schedule to strengthen your internal clock. Consistency reduces fatigue, supports deeper sleep, and improves daytime focus.

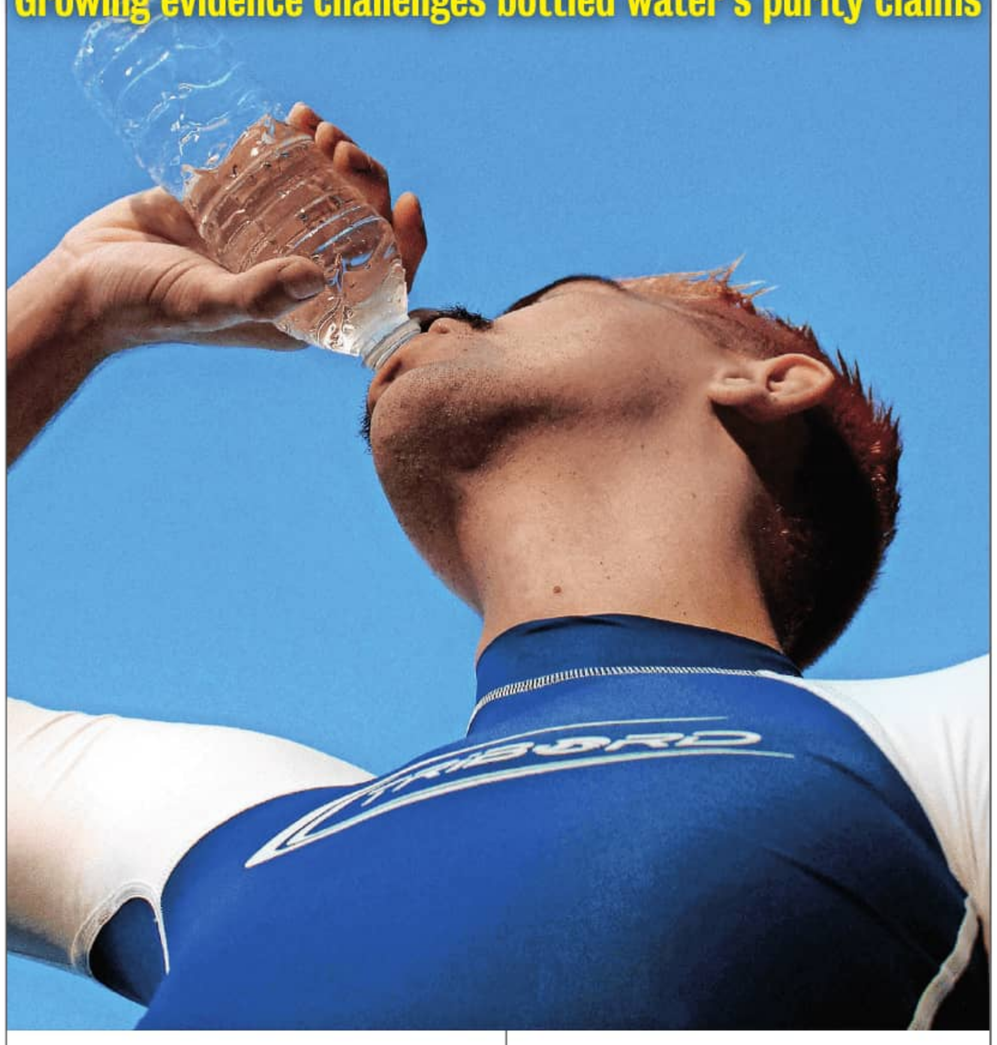
Soothing Sounds
Soft instrumentals or nature soundscapes help quiet mental noise and mask disruptions, easing you gently into sleep.

Dim Lights
Lower the lighting an hour before bed to trigger melatonin release and guide your body toward calm, unhurried rest.

—Femina

BOTTLED WATER ISN'T ALWAYS TRULY SAFER

Growing evidence challenges bottled water's purity claims



Growing mistrust of tap water has helped turn bottled water into a global staple, even in countries where municipal supplies are among the most rigorously tested. Clever marketing has positioned bottled water as purer, healthier and more convenient than what flows from the tap. Yet scientific evidence increasingly contradicts this perception. The idea of purity remains central to the appeal of bottled water, but research now shows that the product often carries its own risks for public health, consumer safety and the environment.

A 2025 study highlighted that bottled water may not be as safe as many consumers believe. Tests on water sold in refillable jugs and single-use plastic bottles revealed high levels of bacterial contamination, indicating lapses in bottling processes, storage or handling. These findings build on a growing body of international research suggesting that, in many regions, tap water is not only safe but often more strictly regulated than bottled alternatives. Public water systems in most developed countries must meet legal standards that define acceptable limits for bacteria, heavy metals, pesticides and chemical contaminants, and they are required to test their water frequently and transparently. In the UK, the Drinking Water Inspectorate publishes its results openly. In the United States, suppliers must comply with the National Primary Drinking Water Regulations under the Environmental Protection Agency. Across the European Union, water quality is governed by the stringent EU Drinking Water Directive.

Bottled water, however, is treated as a packaged food product and tested less frequently, with manufacturers not obligated to publish detailed quality information. Several studies have identified contaminants in bottled water, including microplastics, chemical residues and bacteria. A 2024 analysis detected tens of thousands of plastic particles per litre in some products, raising concerns about long-term exposure. Other research shows that bottled water often contains higher concentrations of microplastics than tap water. Emerging evidence links microplastic exposure to inflammation, hormone disruption and the accumulation of particles in human tissues, though scientists are still studying the long-term implications.

Beyond microplastics, plastic bottles themselves can leach chemicals such as antimony, phthalates and bisphenol analogues. Antimony is used as a catalyst in manufacturing PET, the common material for single-use drink bottles. Phthalates, used to soften plastics, are known endocrine disruptors. Bisphenol analogues such as BPS and BPF, often used as replacements for BPA, have similar properties and may interfere with hormone signalling. These substances migrate into the water more readily when bottles are stored in warm environments—cars, delivery vans or direct sunlight. While the levels detected in bottled water are generally low, researchers remain concerned about repeated, chronic exposure, especially as global consumption continues to rise.

Another misconception is that bottled water is sterile. Once opened, it becomes vulnerable to rapid bacterial growth. A half-finished bottle left in a warm place can quickly turn into a breeding ground for microorganisms. Reusing single-use bottles further increases contamination risk, as bacteria from saliva and the surrounding environment build up over time.

Tap water, meanwhile, typically contains beneficial minerals, a factor well documented in public health research. In countries such as the UK, fluoride is added to some supplies to help prevent tooth decay. Bottled water varies widely in mineral composition, and studies indicate that children who rely heavily on bottled water may have higher rates of dental caries due to lower fluoride exposure.

The environmental impact of bottled water is significant. As global consumption skyrockets, an estimated one million plastic bottles are purchased every minute. Producing a litre of bottled water can require up to two thousand times more energy than supplying the same amount of tap water, according to Danish water technology company Aquaporin. The carbon footprint is also far higher—around eighty grams of carbon dioxide per litre when production, transport and cooling are considered.

The debate over bottled water cannot be separated from broader pressures on global water supplies. Climate change, rapid urbanisation, industrial pollution and population growth are collectively straining freshwater resources. UNESCO estimates that more than two billion people already live in regions facing high water stress.

To expand alternatives, researchers are exploring decentralised technologies that produce clean drinking water at the point of use. One such initiative is Solar2Water, a portable solar-powered device that generates potable water directly from the air. By producing water locally rather than relying on long pipelines and treatment plants, the system reduces dependence on single-use plastics and helps ease pressure on municipal networks. Such decentralised solutions strengthen resilience during climate shocks and provide viable options in communities where trust in tap water has eroded.

Bottled water remains vital in emergencies and in regions where tap water is unsafe. But in most developed countries, it is neither cleaner nor safer than what comes from the tap. As climate change and pollution reshape global water access, understanding the real differences between bottled and tap water is essential for public health, environmental sustainability and informed consumer choice.

By Muhammad Wakil Shahzad, Northumbria University, PTI The Conversation

BM RETAIL & SHOPPING

Lack of urban green spaces can make us sick

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

with mounting evidence that urban green spaces directly support physical and mental health—insights at the heart of the emerging health equity approach across the globe.

Using geospatial mapping and network analysis, the study catalogued publicly accessible parks across all 198 wards of the erstwhile Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP). The results underscore stark spatial imbalances: 19 wards have no public park at all, and another 36 have only one. Western Bengaluru hosts a higher number of parks, while the eastern corridor remains particularly underserved. A detailed classification based on Urban and Regional Development Plans guidelines showed that larger "sub-city" and "district" parks—such as Lalbagh and Cubbon Park—service extensive areas. Yet smaller, neighbourhood-scale parks, which should be within easy walking range for most residents, are notably lacking.

A green activist said, "Bengaluru has a clear problem: many neighbourhoods don't have parks at all, and the parks that do exist are often not looked after well enough to be used."

KAUSHIK JN

According to Manjunath Nanjaraju, a resident of T Dasarahalli, Bengaluru North Corporation illustrates this situation clearly. "Work on the Kempegowda Park in Mallasandra was started more than 10 years ago, but it is still only half built. This shows a bigger issue: Projects begin but are not completed because there is poor planning and almost no follow-up. In the end, the city loses good public spaces and the people lose places to enjoy and relax," Nanjaraju said.

Not at walking distance

The study by Bhor and Mayavel assessed park accessibility using walking-distance thresholds of 150 metres for housing-area parks, 400 metres for neighbourhood parks, and 800 metres for community parks, revealing that nearly 29% of wards lack walkable access to a neighbourhood park, a quarter have no community park within 800 metres, and almost three-fourths are without accessible district-level parks, while central Bengaluru benefits from large historic parks and near-universal access, leaving the rapidly growing peripheral areas significantly underserved.

Correlating park access with socio-economic indicators exposes deeper inequities, with low-income neighbourhoods in the west and southern periphery facing the poorest availability, young children in outer zones missing out on essential green spaces vital for early development, and low-density, newly urbanising areas showing significant gaps that point to planning failures rather than population pressure, underscoring how biodiversity, climate resilience, and public health are all compromised when access to green spaces is unequal.

The researchers urge targeted urban planning focused on expanding neighbourhood and community parks, improving essential amenities, and reshaping the city's master plan to better integrate fast-growing peri-urban areas, while also calling on the BBMP to strengthen park-related data systems for more accurate monitoring and decision-making; ultimately, the report stresses that Bengaluru's prospects as a healthy, livable city hinge not only on increasing green cover but on ensuring equitable access to these vital spaces.

AI for health at IISc

In line with the Government of India's vision of 'Make AI in India and Make AI Work for India,' the Ministry of Education has set up a Centre of Excellence in Artificial Intelligence (AI-CoEs) at the Indian Institute of Science (IISc).

The Centre, called Translational AI for Networked Universal Healthcare (TANUH) Foundation at IISc, will serve as a dedicated AI Centre of Excellence in Healthcare to advance AI-driven healthcare innovation at scale in the country.

TANUH is a not-for-profit company that focuses on developing and deploying scalable AI solutions for the effective management of non-communicable diseases at the point of care. The centre will operate as a multidisciplinary hub, bringing together clinicians, data scientists, and AI researchers.

Nine faculty members from IISc, spanning areas of digital health, machine learning, and public health, will anchor the research programmes. **BMB**

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I, Sheetal Reddy Suri, resident of, Krishvi BVL Statura, Unit No 2904, Budigere Cross, Old Madras Road, Bandapura, Bangalore - 560049 have changed my name to Suri Sheetal Reddy.

I, ANANADA KUMAR M S/O MAHALINGAM, R/O NO 3504,9TH MAIN 2ND CROSS,KAVERI NAGAR BANASHANKARI 2ND STAGE, Bengaluru Karnataka 560070 have changed my name to ANANDAKUMAR M for all future purposes.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, B.NATARAJ (new name) previously called **B.NATARAJA** (old name), doing Self Employee and resident of Pura Village, Lakkur Post, Malur Taluk, Kolar Dist. I have changed my name from **B.NATARAJA** (old name) to **B.NATARAJ** (new name) for all the purposes. Sworn before Maruth Vijay, Advocate & Notary, Malur Vide affidavit Dated: 21/11/2025

I, VIJAYALAXMI KANNAN W/O KANNAN CHIDAMBARAM R/O NO 204, SRIGURPRATHAM APTS, JCR LYT, PANATHUR, BENGALURU, KARNATAKA-560103, HAVE CHANGED MY NAME FROM VIJAYALAXMI CHIDAMBARAM KANNAN TO VIJAYALAXMI KANNAN FOR ALL FUTURE PURPOSES.

I Silapakala Velluri W/o V. Krishna Moorthy R/At No.31, Ground Floor, Thanga Ragavan Nilayam, C Muniswamappa Road, R S Palya, Subbanna Palya, B'luru-560033 have changed my name to K. Silpa Kala For All Purposes.

I THIJU GOPINATHAN S/O K K Gopinath R/o F1 2044, 4th Floor Santorini 1 Sobha City, Thanisandra Main Road, Dr. Shivarama Karanth Nagar, Bangalore, Karnataka - 560077 have changed my name from THIJU GOPINATHAN TO THIJU GOPINATH.

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DEC: 14*, 16, 20, 21, 21*, 22, 22**, 24, 25**, 26, 27, 28* JAN: 16, 21, 26
ANDHRA PRADESH WITH STATUE OF EQUALITY 10/6* DAYS
DEC: 14*, 22, 25, 28* JAN: 1, 4*, 11, 11*, 18*, 21, 25*
SHIRDI NASIK/PANCHA JYOTHIRLINGA* 7* DAYS
DEC: 15*, 28, 29* JAN: 4, 5*, 11, 12*, 18, 19*, 25, 26*
KERALA SPECIAL/ NAVAGRAHA DARSHAN* 7/4* DAYS
DEC: 14, 21, 22*, 28, 29* JAN: 1, 5*, 11, 12* 18, 19*, 25, 26*
SOUTH INDIA 7/10* DAYS EX: MANGALORE DEC: 15, 22, 22* 29 JAN: 19, 26
SOUTH INDIA 9/11* DAYS EX: HUBBALLI JAN: 16*, 20, 27* 30

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 # Starry pose
Salman Khan poses with Johnny Depp at Red Sea Film Festival, honours Hollywood star Idris Elba

Priyanka's Mumbai plans

Actor surprises fans with update that she would be appearing on talk show

Priyanka Chopra has returned to India and has already set social media abuzz with her playful warning to comedian Kapil Sharma. She delighted fans by confirming that she will soon appear on Kapil's hit talk show, The Great Indian Kapil Show. Earlier this week, the actress was spotted at the Mumbai airport.

The actress gave fans a delightful surprise on Instagram when she shared a striking selfie and playfully warned comedian Kapil Sharma: "@Kapilsharma you better be ready. #Mumbai @thegreatindiankapilshow." Reportedly, her visit to Mumbai is not just for leisure; she is also in the city for SS Rajamouli's next big project featuring Mahesh Babu, which is set in Varanasi. The film's title teaser, unveiled last month during a grand event in Hyderabad, received overwhelming praise.

Actor reflects on her early career

At the BRIDGE Summit in Abu Dhabi, Priyanka Chopra recalled her early journey as a young artist.
She shared how she accepted every opportunity in her 20s, working hard and making sacrifices, including missing birthdays, holidays, and family time, to build the life she has now.

What she is looking forward to: Exciting projects ahead

Priyanka continues a packed schedule: after Heads of State, she is shooting SS Rajamouli's Varanasi with Mahesh Babu and Prithviraj Sukumaran, and preparing for two Hollywood releases, The Bluff and Judgment Day, set for 2026. —ETimes

Mama's stylish return

Kiara Advani surprised fans on Wednesday by sharing glimpses of her relaxed 'mama's night out'. Earlier this year, she welcomed a baby girl and has gradually returned to social media.

Stunning in orange

In new Instagram photos, the Kabir Singh actress looked radiant in a bright orange off-shoulder midi dress, accessorised lightly with a black necklace, soft waves, and subtle make-up. She shared the frame with her friend Anaita Shroff Adajania, captioning it "Mamas night out."

Fans excited

Fans flooded the comments with messages of love, calling her "Gorgeous mumma" and "Queen is back finally."

Hints at new projects

Earlier, Kiara shared a photo of her shoes on a sofa with the caption, "Next chapter, more fire. Let's do this," hinting at a return to work.

Family update

Kiara and Sidharth Malhotra welcomed their first child on 15 July, sharing heartfelt messages while requesting privacy.

Work front

She was last seen in the spy thriller War 2 alongside Hrithik Roshan and Jr NTR.

—ETimes

Gwyneth steps back

Academy Award-winning actress Gwyneth Paltrow, who enjoyed huge success early in her career starring in films such as Seven, Emma and Sliding Doors, has spoken about why she stepped away from Hollywood.

"I felt a lot of loneliness when I was doing it in my 20s. I didn't know myself well yet, and I was travelling all the time. I needed to grow up and understand who I really was, and I got a lot of those answers through my family. Then I started a business," she told Variety.com.

However, Paltrow chose to return to the film industry after being offered a role in Marty Supreme, the new sports comedy-drama film.

The actress explained: "Marty Supreme came about in an incredible way because our boys were going off to college and I was

left with this feeling of shock and disbelief. Like, 'Who am I?'"

Paltrow, who starred in Proof in London's West End, said she would love to appear in another play, keeping a promise to her mother. She noted she had achieved most of her acting ambitions before turning 30.

Why she doesn't miss acting

The Oscar-winning actress has focused on her lifestyle brand and admitted she "doesn't love acting that much," reflecting that after early success, she questioned her purpose and direction. —ETimes

Muddled-up violent saga

Director Prakash Veer makes a comeback after seven years with Devil. It is perplexing why he chose to direct this project as his comeback film. The confusion largely stems from Darshan's dual roles of Dhanush and Krishna. Strangely he is both the hero and villain of this film. The narrative blurs lines to the extent that a character like Rajasekhar, played by Sanjay Manjrekar, mistakes Dhanush for Krishna. The long runtime of 165 minutes and an overload of violent scenes further affect the film's appeal.

The movie begins on a strong note with a special court convicting Chief Minister Rajasekhar (Sanjay Manjrekar) for corruption. He instructs his advisor, Ananth Nambiar (Achyuth Kumar), to bring his son Dhanush (Darshan) from London to lead the Karunada Praja Paksha in the upcoming State Assembly elections. However, Dhanush refuses to accept responsibility. During this time, Ananth Nambiar encounters Krishna (also played by Darshan), the owner of Krishna Mess, who dreams of acting in films and happens to look exactly like Dhanush. Krishna agrees to impersonate Rajasekhar's son. What happens to Dhanush forms the core of the film's suspense.

Films are usually meant to entertain, inform, or deliver a social message, but The Devil does neither convincingly. The excessive violence and harsh dialogues make it unsuitable for a segment of the audience.

Darshan has put in sincere effort to distinguish both characters—one filled with vices and the other innocent. Rachana Rai looks gorgeous and delivers a standout performance that becomes one of the film's highlights. Sharmiela Mandre appears only in three scenes. Mahesh Manjrekar does not significantly elevate the movie. Achyuth Kumar performs well as the strategist, while Shobharaj looks out of place in a scene involving a drunkard. B Ajaneesh Lokanath's music is foot tapping, and cinematographer Sudhakar S Raj offers strong visual work.

The film could have been a better entertainer had the director trimmed 15–20 minutes and avoided the heavy action sequences between Krishna and Dhanush. Still, it may be watchable for mass audiences who enjoy action-driven films.

—Y Maheswara Reddy

THE DEVIL
2.5 RATING ★★½☆☆
- **DIRECTOR** Prakash Veer
- **ACTORS** Darshan (Double role), Rachana Rai, Mahesh Manjrekar, Achyuth Kumar, Shobharaj
- **Duration** 165 minutes
- **Certification** U/A

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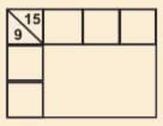
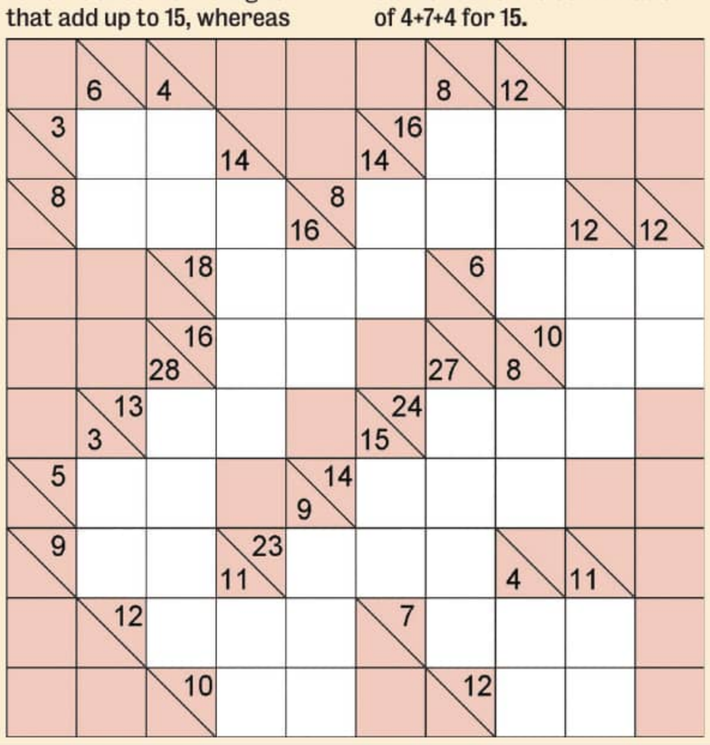
Kakuro

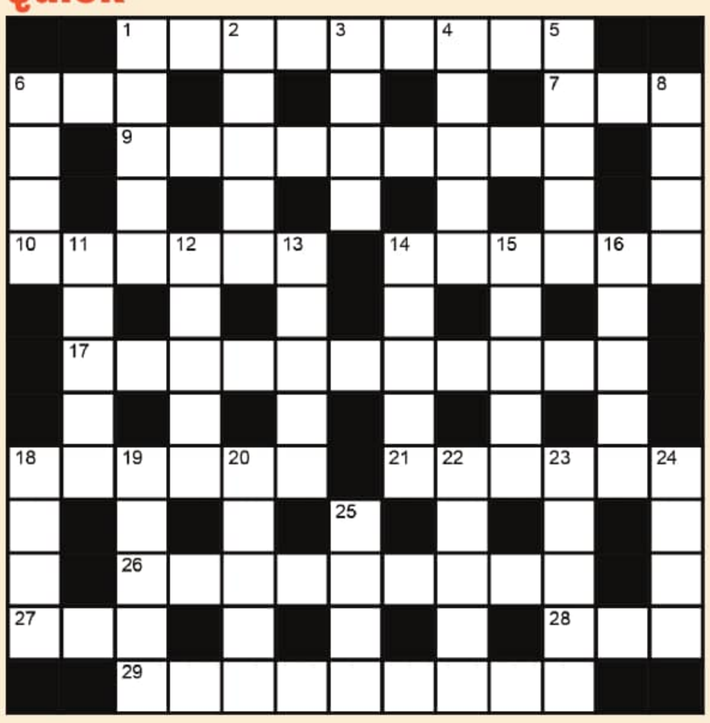
The numbers in the grey squares refer to the sums of the digits that you must fill into the empty spaces directly below or to the right of the grey square containing the number. For instance, in the given example, the 3 boxes horizontally next to 15 must contain 3 digits that add up to 15, whereas for 9, it is the 2 boxes placed vertically under it that must add up to 9. No zeros are used here, only the digits 1 through 9.



Note: A digit cannot appear more than once in any particular digit combination. For instance, in the example, we cannot have the combination of 4+7+4 for 15.



Quick



ACROSS

1 Begins or commences a journey (7,2)
6 Mineral spring (3)
7 Arvind Kejriwals party (3)
9 Karnataka lies on Indias ___-___ coast (5-4)
10 Fall asleep or doze, esp. in a sitting position? (3,3)
14 Converted water to steam (6)
17 An __ __ ___ __ : tit for tat or even better? (3,3,2,3)
18 Required or needed (6)
21 Most recent (6)
26 Inferior, not good at all (5-4)
27 Shanty (3)
28 Mire (3)
29 Twenty four hours back? (9)

DOWN

1 Alleviated (5)
2 Card game (5)
3 Essen valley (4)
4 Dictation taker (5)
5 Of birth (5)
6 Stretch of time (4)
8 Goad (4)
11 Greek letter (5)
12 Openly manifest (5)
13 Inundation or deluge (5)
14 A loud quarrel or tiff (5)
15 That is to Cato (2,3)
16 Jugs or pitchers (5)
18 Accompanying (4)
19 Crazy or slightly eccentric (5)
20 Changes or emends (5)
22 Prize (5)
23 Foe (5)
24 Watch over (4)
25 Slight advantage (4)

Quoteuncode

This puzzle is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that Q equals C, it will equal C throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.

Today's CLUE: B EQUALS Y

BFY EWX LACC LOA VZQA FD W UWX JB LOA VZQA FD LOA LOZXM LOWL UWTAV OZU UWN.

Linemaro

Babe, your beauty makes the morning sun look like the dull glimmer of the moon

Mindchow

The game of life is not so much in holding a good hand as in playing a poor hand well

Joke of the day

Professor: Why are you late? College girl: I was being followed by a boy Ma'am. Professor: So? College girl: That boy was walking too slowly.

Loop

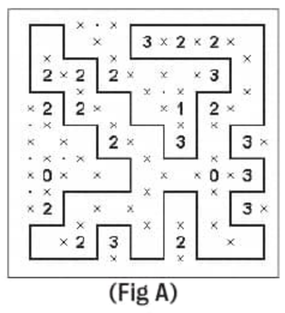
Rules

» Connect adjacent dots with vertical or horizontal lines, creating a single loop (Fig A). » Crossovers or branches are not allowed (As shown by dotted lines in Fig B). » Numbers in the puzzle indicate the number of lines that should surround it, while empty cells may be surrounded by any number of lines. » You can't draw lines around zeros. » Each puzzle has just one unique solution.

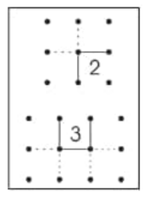
How to begin:

Example (Fig A) – Begin with the zero next to 3. Since no lines can be drawn around zero, mark crosses around it, as shown. Now there is a cross in one space around 3. So we know the three lines of 3 can only be drawn in the remaining three spaces. Next, these lines can only be extended in one direction each. Continue, using the same logic.

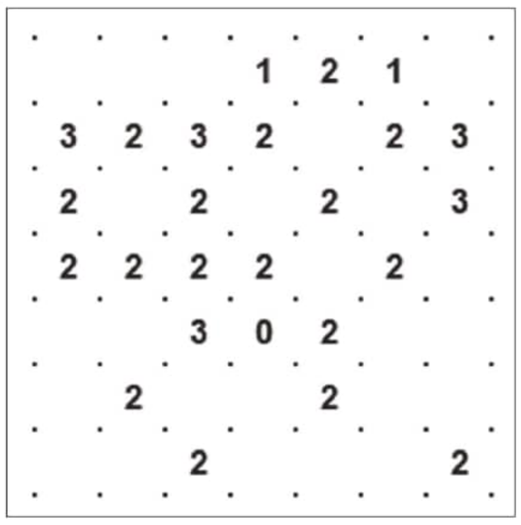
Hints: Keep eliminating possibilities by marking crosses in spaces between dots where a line isn't possible, i.e., if you have already completed required lines or where a line extension may create a branch or cause a dead-end (Fig B)



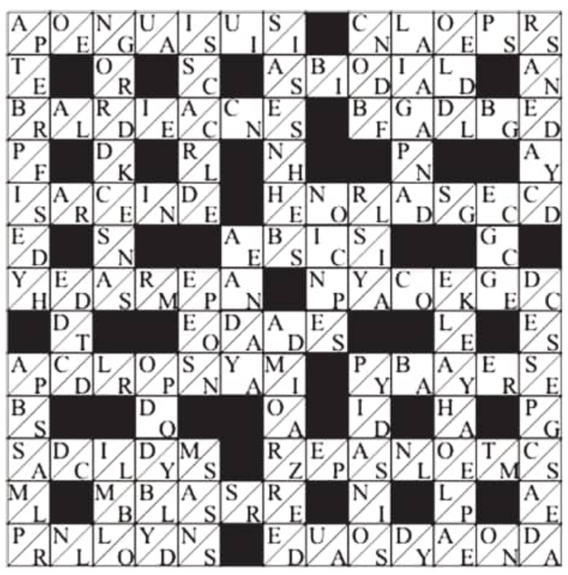
(Fig A)



(Fig B) Not Allowed



Strikeout



This crossword has no clues and the answer is there waiting for you. All you have to do is find it in each square. You have a choice of two letters, one of which you must strike out. If you choose correctly, you will be left with a grid that contains real words.

Fast five

How long do you think it will take you to unscramble the ten words shown below and fit them correctly into the grid in the order given one letter has already been entered to get you started? on your marks, get set...

1	2	3	4	5
6				
7				
8			M	
9				

ACROSS

1 Iffy J; 6 Maleo; 7 Plus I; 8 Maine; 9 Napes

DOWN

1 Pa Jan; 2 I mine; 3 Foal I; 4 MP flu; 5 Essey

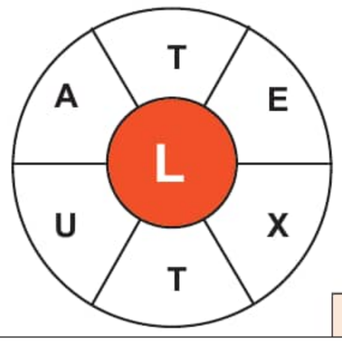
Mensapuzzle

Following a logical sequence, can you complete this puzzle?

5	13	4
6	10	2

3	19	8
6	20	

Bull's eye



How many words of four or more letters can you make from the letters shown? Every word must contain the central letter. There should be one seven-letter word. British English Dictionary is used as a reference.

06 Average; 07 Good; 09 Outstanding

SudokuChallenge

9		3	2		6			8
		7			4			
							2	1
8	1			6				9
			3		2			
2				9			6	7
3	7							
			4			3		
6			1		5	8		2

To solve a Sudoku puzzle, every digit from one to nine must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows and in each of the nine boxes.

Gofigure

Place the four numbers in the first, third, fifth, and seventh boxes and whatever operators you care to use in the second, fourth, and sixth boxes in the correct order to get the answer. Use the numbers only once.

Easy = 7

2 4 4 9

Medium = 23

4 7 8 9

Hard = 11

3 3 3 9

Hocusfocus

Find at least six differences in details between panels.

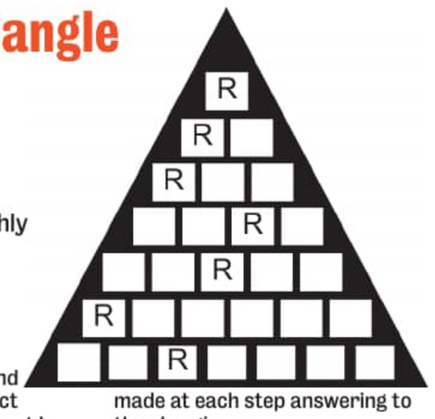
Differences: 1. Arm is lower. 2. Watch is added. 3. Cabinet is taller. 4. Diploma is different. 5. Bottle is missing. 6. Shirt is different.

Riddler

There are three houses built exactly the same. One is filled with cotton, the other with wood, and the third with iron. One day an arsonist sets them all on fire. Sirens were loudly coming to the scene. People were screaming. Which house did the ambulance try to put the fire out at first?

Alpha triangle

1 Right letter
2 Again, prefix
3 Have regrets
4 Unwavering
5 Money holder
6 We spend them
7 Studied thoroughly



Beginning at the top move towards the bottom seven-letter word by adding a letter at each step and rearranging. A correct and different word must be made at each step answering to the clue given.

DIFFICULT TO SOLVE? FIND THESE SOLUTIONS ON THE NEXT PAGE

COMICS

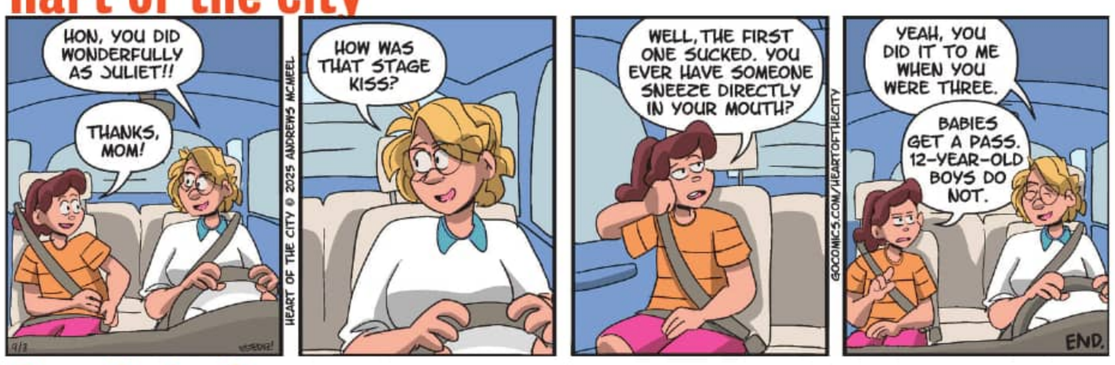
Popeye

SCRAM! I AM ASKING BRUTUS TO MARRY ME!
I JUS' WANTS TO GIVE BRUTUS SOME ADVICE!
IF YOU ACCEPTS OLIVE'S PROPOSAL I WILL HAVE TO ANNIHILAKE, DISSOLVE, ERADIMACAKE, DEMOLISH AN' MASSACRE YOU!!
YES, SIR!
RIGHT!
3-14
popeye.com

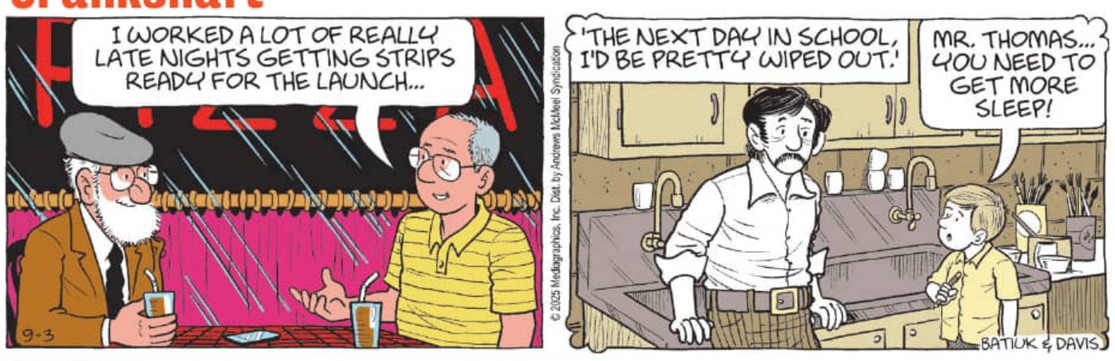
Bizarrotrip

Diamond Lil

Hart of the city


HON, YOU DID WONDERFULLY AS JULIET!!
THANKS, MOM!
HOW WAS THAT STAGE KISS?
WELL, THE FIRST ONE SUCKED. YOU EVER HAVE SOMEONE SNEEZE DIRECTLY IN YOUR MOUTH?
YEAH, YOU DID IT TO ME WHEN YOU WERE THREE.
BABIES GET A PASS. 12-YEAR-OLD BOYS DO NOT.
END.

Crankshaft


I WORKED A LOT OF REALLY LATE NIGHTS GETTING STRIPS READY FOR THE LAUNCH...
'THE NEXT DAY IN SCHOOL, I'D BE PRETTY WIPED OUT.'
MR. THOMAS... YOU NEED TO GET MORE SLEEP!

Mutts

WRITTEN IN THE STARS

DR SUNDEEP KOCHAR

If it's your birthday today

Next week brings excellent focus for writing or planning long-term goals. Structure your thoughts clearly; others are receptive to your vision today. Avoid getting bogged down in overly minute details, which isn't your strong suit. Instead, draw the grand map and assign key milestones. Your enthusiasm for the destination will inspire everyone to follow your lead.

Aries Mar 21–Apr 20
Finances look promising with possible extra income or bonuses. An unexpected admirer may appear, stay cautious before committing. Take time to understand their intentions to protect your heart and peace.

Taurus Apr 21–May 20
You've limited your social life lately, open up and meet new people. Enjoy romance while staying mindful of savings. Review finances and plan wisely to secure your future comfort.

Gemini May 21–Jun 21
Ask for new projects or challenges at work to boostgrowth. Appreciate your independence, embrace solitude, and practise selflove. Your confidence and positive energy attract both opportunities and admiration.

Cancer Jun 22–July 23
Refocus on your career path and revive long-term goals. Enrolling in a class or pursuing new learning could bring romantic possibilities too. Growth and love may come hand in hand.

Leo Jul 24 – Aug 23
Your leadership and problemsolving shine, earning respect at work. After a productive day, show appreciation to loved ones. Plan something thoughtful for your partner to strengthen emotional connection and warmth.

Virgo Aug 24–Sep 23
Step out of your comfort zone and embrace emotional risks. Try connecting with someone unlike you. Balance ambition with inner peace, focusing on calm, realistic goals that nurture your happiness.

Libra Sep 24–Oct 22
Financial stability brings relief. Assert healthy work boundaries and say no when necessary. Shift your attention to love and personal joy; life exists beautifully beyond workplace demands and obligations.

Scorpio Oct 23–Nov 22
Socialising might increase your expenses, but the experiences are worth it. Reflect on career goals and direction; clarity arrives today, helping you rediscover motivation and align with your professional purpose.

Sagittarius Nov 23–Dec 22
Clear communication solves challenges at work and improves collaboration. Manage finances with care and stay practical in decisions. Transparency and grounded thinking bring surprising growth.

Capricorn Dec 23–Jan 20
Pause your moneyfocused mindset and nurture your inner self. Try meditation, yoga, or new learning. A refreshing hobby or conversation could open unexpected romantic or emotional connections today.

Aquarius Jan 21–Feb 19
Declutter your surroundings and clear your mind. Temporary financial slowdown isn't permanent, stay wise with spending. Professional energy soon increases, restoring balance and bringing long-term stability and renewed confidence.

Pisces Feb 20–Mar 20
Today favours important financial or property decisions. Trust your intuition; fortune supports you now. Share your insights with trusted people and allow optimism to guide your actions forward.

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KIDZONE

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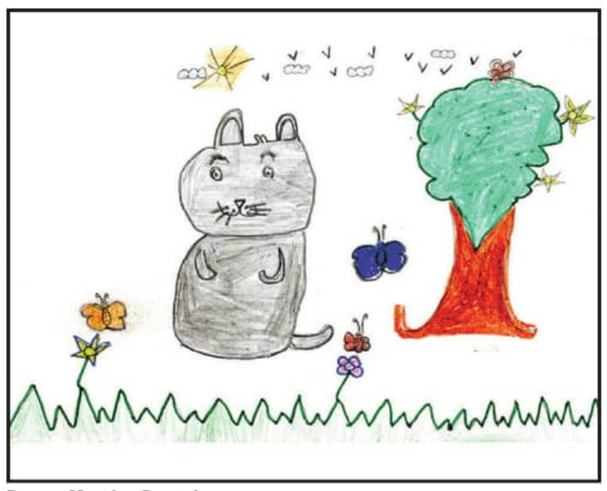

Ramya Murthy, Bengaluru

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Please send hard copies of your artwork in A4 size only.

SOLUTIONS

SOLVE IN 1M
= [(2^6)*40^(2^2)^30] / [(2^4)^30^(2^3)^50]
= (2^240 * 2^60) / (2^120 * 2^150)
= 2^300 / 2^270
= 2^(300 - 270) = 2^30

BULL'S EYE
axle, exalt, exult, late, latex, lute, tale, teal, TEXTUAL

RIDDLER
Ambulances do not put out fires.

FAST FIVE

J	I	F	F	Y
A	M	O	L	E
A	N	I	M	E
P	I	L	U	S
A	N	E	A	P	S

STRIKE OUT

P	E	G	A	S	U	S		C	L	O	P	S		
E	O		C		A	B	O	I	L		N			
R	A	D	I	A	N	S		B	A	D	G	E		
F		D		L		H			N			A		
I	R	E	N	E		E	N	R	A	G	E	D		
		C				A	S	I	S			C		
Y	E	S	M	E	N		P	A	C	K	E	D		
		T		O	D	A	S		E			E		
A	C	R	O	N	Y	M		P	A	Y	E	E		
B		D		A		I		H				P		
A	C	I	D	S		Z	E	A	L	O	T	S		
M		B	L	A	R	E		N		L		E		
A	N	A	R											

QUICK

												Y		
											E	S	T	
										E	R	D	A	Y
									T	E	S	T		
								H	U	T				
							T	H	I	R	D			
						I	U		D					
					W	A	N	T	E	D				
				G		R	O			L	A	T	E	S
			E	Y	E	F	O	R	A	N	E	Y	E	
			M		V		L		R		D		W	
		N	O	D	O	F	F		B	O	I	L	E	D
		A		E		F		R		N		A		O
	P		S	O	U	T	H	W	E	S	T		R	
	S	P	A		L		U		T		A	A	P	
		E	M	B	A	R	K	S	O	N				

MENSA PUZZLE
7. In each line, the central number equals the left hand number and double the right hand number.

QUOTE UNCODE
You can tell the size of a man by the size of the thing that makes him mad.

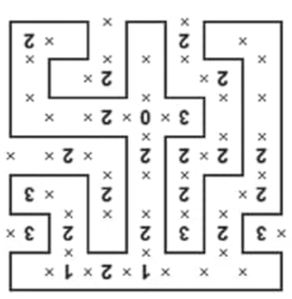
SUDOKU

6	4	9	1	3	5	8	7	2
5	8	2	4	7	9	3	1	6
3	7	1	6	2	8	5	9	4
2	3	5	8	9	1	4	6	7
7	9	6	3	4	2	1	8	5
8	1	4	5	6	7	2	3	9
4	6	8	7	5	3	9	2	1
1	2	7	9	8	4	6	5	3
9	5	3	2	1	6	7	4	8

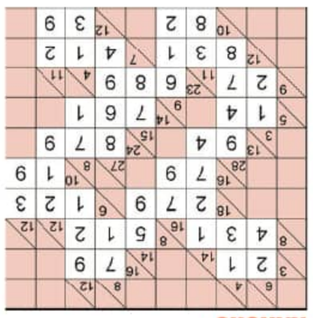
ALPHA TRIANGLE
R, Re, Rue, Sure, Purse, Rupees, Perused.

GO FIGURE
Easy
4 - 4 - 2 + 9 = 7
Medium
8 \ 4 x 7 + 9 = 23
Hard
3 + 3 \ 3 + 9 = 11

LOOP



KAKURO



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Avail amazing benefits up to
₹1 00 000* + GST Reduction
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Models	GST reductions up to*		Additional benefits up to*		Total benefits up to*
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i20	₹98 053		₹75 000		₹1 73 053
EXTER	₹89 209		₹85 000		₹1 74 209
AURA	₹78 465		₹33 000		₹1 11 465
VERNA	₹60 640		₹75 000		₹1 35 640
ALCAZAR	₹75 376		₹40 000		₹1 15 376

6 hai toh safe hai
6 airbags standard

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✆ 9606076451

Service:

Bangalore - Mission Road | JC Road | Vasanth Nagar | Rajajinagar | Binnyston | Bannerghatta Road | Outer Ring Road | Banashankari | Hulimavu | Hulimavu New | JP Nagar | ITPL | ITPL NEW | Indiranagar | Sarjapura | Anekal | Avalahalli | Mandur | Uttarahalli | Kolar | Chintamani | Ramanagara | Mandya | Mysore - JBL Road | Belvadi | VV Nagar | Hassan | Hassan New | Tiptur | Coorg - Kushalnagar | Madikeri | Gonikoppal | Mangalore - Kuntikana | Baikampady (New) | Baikampady | Sulia | Belthangady

✆ 9902099944

Hyundai Promise
Certified Pre-Owned Car

*Terms & conditions apply. *Offers and benefits mentioned are valid till 31st December 2025. Offers and benefits mentioned include cash, corporate, either exchange or scrappage benefits as applicable. ^EMI may differ basis the bank interest, tenure, customer profile, etc. Finance at the sole discretion of financier. ##CSD: Canteen Stores Department, KPKB: Kendriya Police Kalyan Bhandar.